

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE

## The Issue

*Substance abuse, which affects all racial, cultural, and economic groups, greatly impacts the quality of life of a growing number of children who may suffer abuse and neglect at the hands of an addicted parent. The gap between available treatment slots and the number of people seeking treatment for illicit drug use and alcohol abuse is a continuing problem in Maryland.*

Substance abuse refers to overuse of, and chronic addiction to alcohol and/or other drugs, especially illegal drugs. Substance abuse is an issue that affects all racial, cultural, and economic groups, at the national, state, and local levels. According to the National Institutes of Health in 1995, the economic cost of alcohol and drug abuse represents more than \$1,000 for every man, woman, and child in the United States for the cost of health care, motor vehicle crashes, crime, lost productivity, and other adverse outcomes of alcohol and drug abuse.

Substance abuse greatly impacts the quality of life for a growing number of children who may suffer abuse and neglect at the hands of an addicted parent. According to the Maryland's Children Action Network, 60 percent of children in out-of-home placement in 1998 had a parent with identified substance abuse problems. Other research shows that children who live in a house with an addicted parent are more likely to become drug and alcohol users as they grow up.

Routinely, publicly-funded treatment programs in the State are filled to capacity. Many clients seeking treatment (especially those who are uninsured or underinsured) are unable to access the full range of services necessary for recovery. The Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse

<b>Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Need by Region, FY 1997</b>		
<b>Counties</b>	<b>Treatment Need</b>	<b>ADAA Funded Slots</b>
Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties	66,543	5,051
Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties	34,741	2,261
Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties	13,985	1,309
Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington Counties	18,346	1,484
Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties	23,807	1,894
City of Baltimore	60,928	5,709
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>218,350</b>	<b>17,708</b>

**Source:** Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, February 1998

Administration (ADAA) reports that statewide, several thousand people are turned away from treatment programs every month. ADAA Prevalence Estimates for 1998 indicate a need statewide for over 200,000 treatment slots. The gap between available treatment slots and the number of people seeking treatment for illicit drug use and alcohol abuse is a continuing problem.

### **Topics, by jurisdiction, included in the Health Improvement Plan**

**Statewide** - *Increasing Substance Abuse Treatment.*

**Carroll County** - *Reduction of Substance Abuse*

**Harford County** - *Substance Abuse Treatment*

**Queen Anne's County** - *Preventing Alcohol and Drug Use in the Population  
Less Than 21 Years Old*

**Wicomico County** - *Reducing Underage Drinking*

### **Priority focus in other jurisdictions**

*Substance abuse* is included as a priority area for FY2000 in:

Allegany County • Anne Arundel County • Calvert County • Carroll County  
Charles County • Harford County • Montgomery County • Prince George's County  
Talbot County • Washington County • Wicomico County • Worcester County  
Baltimore City

### **Highlights of HIP strategies recommended to decrease substance abuse**

*(for in-depth details, see the complete text of each state and county module)*

- Decrease the number of people on waiting lists to receive substance abuse treatment by providing more treatment availability. **(State)**
- Provide/increase access to substance abuse treatment **(Carroll and Harford counties)** for the growing numbers of uninsured and underinsured in each jurisdiction. **(State)**
- Complete a comprehensive needs assessment **(State)** to prioritize needs. **(Carroll County)**
- Develop and implement a county wide Substance Abuse Data Information System for all public and private treatment program clients. **(Harford County)**
- Decrease adolescents' perceptions that parents accept underage drinking and drug use as a norm. **(Queen Anne's County)**
- Develop and implement comprehensive media campaigns targeting population groups at high risk for substance abuse. **(Wicomico County)**

### **Statewide Partners**

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, DHMH • Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) • Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice • Maryland Department of Social Services • Maryland Local Health Departments • Maryland Office of the State's Attorney • State of Maryland Task Force to Study Increasing the Availability of Substance Abuse Programs